

Free Teacher Workshop: Hazards on the Homefront

Household hazardous waste education provides an opportunity for teachers to give students real-life decision-making skills, apply new state essential learnings, and have fun in the process. At the end of the *Hazards on the Homefront* workshop, you will be able to incorporate this issue into a program that requires critical thinking, reading, and communication skills. Classroom materials for teaching the lessons are provided as well as the opportunity for follow-up assistance and mini-grants for completing projects. Students will learn lifelong skills that will assist them in the choices they make for our future.



The next workshop will be held at the King County South Treatment Plant from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on October 12th. It will include time to practice new lessons and activities, a presentation by Philip Dickey of Washington Toxics Coalition, \$75 stipend for certified King County teachers upon completion of workshop objectives, a tour of the wastewater treatment plant, free lunch and clock hours (available for a fee). Priority is given to King County teachers. To register, contact Melanie Emerson at 206-583-0655 or memerson@triangleassociates.com. Space is limited to fifteen. Teams of teachers are encouraged to attend.



For more details on these and other programs, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>.

THINK WASTE FREE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Look for up to 50 % savings on gift certificates for food and entertainment November 23 through December 31. Visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/resrecy/wfh.htm> for details.

Class Act — September 2001

King County Solid Waste Division School Newsletter

c/o Triangle Associates, Inc.

811 First Ave., #255

Seattle, Washington 98104

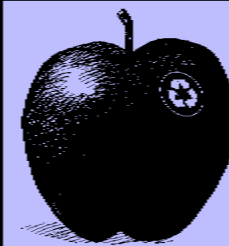
PASS IT ON—
When you are
done with this
issue, pass it on
to someone else
who may be
interested.



KING COUNTY



Printed on Recycled Paper



Class Act

King County Solid Waste Division's School Recycling Program Newsletter

Volume 6
Number 1

September
2001

HOP ON THE HABITAT EXPRESS Assembly

The King County Solid Waste Division is taking requests for its newest free elementary school assembly program, *Hop on the Habitat Express*. The new assembly introduces students to the concept of habitat and how our choices to conserve rather than waste resources help protect habitat. As with previous County assembly programs such as *Who Put the R in Earth?* and the *Wiz Kids of Waste*, this program uses student participation, real life examples relevant to elementary school kids, and humor to convey the message that we each have an impact on the environment.

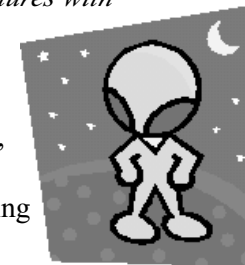
Schools that schedule the assembly also will receive classroom workshops that expand on the messages of the assembly. While the program is limited to the first 60 schools to sign up, all King County elementary schools outside of Seattle may also participate in the Green Team program. Green Team specialist Sara Gersten-Rothenberg will assist teachers and/or school environmental clubs that want to take on projects that conserve natural resources and protect the environment.

To schedule a program, call Triangle Associates at 206-583-0655.

ADVENTURES
with ZEELA

Storytelling for Kindergarteners/Preschoolers

King County offers a special storytelling program for kindergarten, available by contacting Kathie Vitz at 206-789-0754. *Adventures with Zeela* tells the story of an interstellar traveler whose search for an answer to the problem of too much garbage, ends with a lesson from her human friends on how recycling cuts down waste.



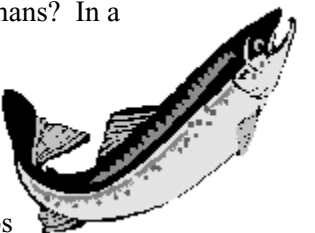
Nature Connections Science Programs

Let us help you make some NATURE CONNECTIONS! *Animal Senses*, *Native Plant Uses*, *Water Cycle* or *Jump into Geology* are just a few of the thirty environmental science programs available for elementary and intermediate students. These essential learning-centered, hands-on programs are designed to enhance science and social studies units. If you are a teacher looking for presenters with great nature props and concepts to speak in your classroom or take your class on a field trip, contact the King County Park System Interpretive Programs Office at 206-296-4171 or www.metrokc.gov/parks/events/teacher.htm. We will send you a brochure explaining our whole program.



Natural Connections Classroom Workshops

Biodiversity in Our World and *Soils for Salmon* are secondary school classroom workshops that follow up on the concepts presented in the one-hour TV program called *Natural Connections*. Schools that schedule the workshops are sent the video in advance. Through challenging discussions and fun, hands-on activities, *Biodiversity in Our World* answers the question: What is biodiversity and why is it important to humans? In a lively and engaging workshop, *Soils for Salmon* explores how soil is interconnected to aquatic wildlife and humans. Both workshops give students an understanding of the positive human impacts of resource conservation. To schedule a Natural Connections workshop, call 206-343-9759 ext. 112.



Waste Busters Middle and High School Classroom Labs Available

The Waste Busters Program offers classroom labs that spark interest in waste reduction and recycling and involve students in making decisions about solid waste and recycling issues. Teachers can choose from five different presentations for middle school or three for high school. Each lab offers a fun, hands-on, interactive session that is 45-55 minutes long. Contact the registrar at 206-443-2851 or wastebusters@pacsci.org, for more information.



Slugs, Bugs, and Dirty Toilets: How Hazardous Waste Hits Home

Are your students studying health or the environment, exploring chemical reactions, or maybe raising salmon in the classroom? Are you already connecting science with social issues, or would you like to do more of this? If you answered “yes” to any of the above, you might enjoy a free classroom presentation on household hazardous waste this year. Teachers receive a follow-up packet and Green Cleaning Kit with activity guide. All students receive safer substitute “recipe” cards and other handouts.



The program is available for grades four through twelve. Scheduling is open now through the end of the school year,



and is available on a first come, first served basis. Related field trips are also available through the Seattle Aquarium and the King County Parks Department. To schedule, contact Gail Gensler at King County’s Hazardous Waste Management Program, 206-263-3082 or gail.gensler@metrokc.gov.

For more information about the program see www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers/.

Master Recycler Composter Presentations

King County’s Master Recycler Composter (MRC) volunteers are available to provide school presentations on topics including waste reduction, recycling, composting, and alternatives to household hazardous waste. Presentations can include hands-on displays



on such themes as worm bins for food waste composting, environmentally friendly and unfriendly lunches, or alternatives to household hazardous products. Presentations can be made on other resource conservation and waste reduction topics as well. Contact Nanda Blasej at 206-343-9759 ext. 116 to schedule a classroom visit. For more information on the MRC Program, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/resrecy/recycling/master.html> or call Karen May at 206-296-4353.

RecycleArtist Program

Are you looking for a hands-on, environmentally focused project for your secondary school students? Through its RecycleArtist program, the King County Solid Waste Division makes local artists available to explore with your students environmental issues, such as waste reduction, recycling, and conservation of natural resources, through the medium of art. The program is designed to actively engage students in discovering and identifying solutions to the environmental challenges facing our society.

Video production, drama, songwriting, mural painting and dance are among the methods that 600 middle and senior high school students and their teachers have applied under the guidance of an artist over the past four years of the RecycleArtist program. Last year, Skykomish High School students won an award at the Young Producer’s Festival in Portland, Oregon for their video “An Oily Sky” that was produced as part of this program.

In the 2001-02 school year, a limited number of King County schools at the middle and high school level will be selected to participate in the program. Call Dale Alekel at 206-296-8457 or e-mail her at dale.alekel@metrokc.gov to receive a list of the artists available for the 2001-02 school year. Also, call Heather Khan at 206-296-4467 to borrow the “RecycleArtist” video, which showcases a number of projects completed through the program.



Water Quality Presentations Available

Teachers in grades 4-12 may sign up for an in-class water quality presentation offered on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the school year. The program focuses on the interconnectedness and stewardship of all waters. Some of the topics covered are how wastewater is treated and what happens to it and the solids that are left behind, hazardous waste and available alternatives and the difference be-

tween storm drain and sewer water. A groundwater model is used to show what happens to pesticides, oil and fertilizers that we use in our daily lives. Salmon recovery and the Endangered Species Act will also be introduced. Materials and resources are provided as well as activities for students. To sign up, call Lexi Taylor at 206-296-8287 or e-mail lexi.taylor@metrokc.gov.

Fall for Salmon Guide to Activities

This year’s *Fall for Salmon* seasonal guide to volunteer tree plantings, workshops and tours will be available mid-September. The guide lists interesting projects and opportunities to learn about and help salmon and their habitat. To request copies, call Jo Sullivan at 206-296-8361 or email her at jo.sullivan@metrokc.gov.



Programs for Educators Directory Available in October

King County’s fifth annual *Programs for Educators* directory will be available in early October. This annual guide helps ensure that educators have current information on available county materials, funding sources and organizations on a wide variety of topics ranging from disaster and emergency preparedness to natural resource stewardship. The programs listed in the guide deal with issues that shape and influence our quality of life in King County now and well into the future. For your copy, contact Karen May at 206-296-4353 or karen.may@metrokc.gov.



H2Ope for the Future

A Free Video on King County’s Watersheds

H2Ope for the Future tells the stories of King County’s watersheds, the interconnectedness we share with all living things in a watershed, and why it is important to protect our fragile water resources. This beautiful video illustrates how our everyday actions affect King County watersheds and water quality. The film is ideal for the classroom and anyone interested in understanding the function and value of our local watersheds and for learning what individuals can do to help make a difference. It is available free for classrooms. Call 206-296-8361 to obtain a copy.

America Recycles Day

All across America on November 15, 2001, people will be taking part in recycling activities as part of the fifth annual America Recycles Day.

As part of our Washington State celebration of America Recycles Day, public, private, and home schooled K-8 students are invited to participate in the America Recycles Day Washington 2002 calendar contest. The winning posters for the state will be featured in the America Recycles Day Washington 2002 calendar—each month displaying a different winning poster.



A participation packet has been sent to principals at all schools in King County with K-8 students, so ask your principal for the information, or contact Kris Beatty at the King County Department of Natural Resources, (206) 296-3740 or kris.beatty@metrokc.gov.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Programs

Invite a speaker to your class to learn about water quality and wastewater treatment. Contact John Phillips at 206-684-6799 or john.phillips@metrokc.gov. Tours of the County’s wastewater treatment plants are also available for students age 12 and older. For tour details and requirements, contact Denise Chanez at 206-296-8286 or denise.chanez@metrokc.gov. Transportation to the treatment plant may be available on free METRO buses on a limited basis by contacting Marsh Danner at 206-263-6481 or marsh.danner@metrokc.gov. More information on these programs is available by visiting the program website at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/tours/index.htm>.



Washington WaterWeeks 2001

Clean up a beach, restore salmon habitat, learn how to monitor water quality, celebrate water and salmon at fairs and festivals, and much more. Washington WaterWeeks 2001 is underway with more than 165 water and habitat activities planned for September 1 through October 14. The WaterWeeks Adventure Guide, a listing of events, can be accessed at 800-732-9253 or www.waterweeks.org.